Inventor(s): YAMAMURA et al. Application No.: 09/522,020

Attorney Docket No.: 007874-0257743

II. REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

The applicants would like to thank the examiner for the indication of allowable

subject matter in claims 1 and 14.

Claims 1-10 and 14 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 2-10 are

amended to a method, inter alia, wherein the hanging mechanism supplies the base material

to the furnace, and wherein the elongating mechanism pulls the base material. Support for the

claim amendments may be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Thus the applicants believe that no new matter is added as a result of these amendments.

The applicants respectfully entry of the foregoing amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R.

§1.116 and request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Should the

examiner maintain the final rejection, the amendments to the claims will place the application

in better form for appeal. This response is filed within the shortened statutory period for

response. Therefore, the applicants believe that no fee is due.

Patentability Remarks

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 -

Claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being

indefinite. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the preceding amendments and

succeeding remarks.

As amended, claims 2-10 are directed to a method, *inter alia*, wherein the hanging

mechanism supplies the base material to the furnace, and wherein the elongating mechanism

pulls the base material. Therefore, by the foregoing amendment, the applicants have more

clearly defined the applicants invention as presented in claims 2-10, i.e., claims 2-10 simple

further define the "hanging mechanism" and the "elongating mechanism" of claim 1 (from

which claims 2-10 depend). The applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-10 are not

indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and request withdrawal of this rejection.

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III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue that the examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the examiner is strongly urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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